

Luke's Account of the Crucifixion & Resurrection

While Luke is one of the “synoptic” gospels and shares much in common with Matthew and Mark, we’ve seen over the past couple weeks that there are many unique characteristics in Luke’s writing also. This is true again when we come to the scenes of Christ’s betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection. Luke tells us that Jesus prayed for Peter because Satan had “...demanded to have you that he might sift you like wheat” (22:31). Luke includes the discussion about two swords (22:35-38), and in the Garden of Gethsemane only Luke tells us of the angel that comforted Jesus and the blood-stained sweat of Jesus (22:43-44). It is Luke alone who tells us Jesus healed the lopped-off ear of the high-priest’s servant (22:51), and it is Luke who records that Jesus turned and looked at Peter when the rooster crowed (22:61). Only Luke records Jesus’ trial before Herod (23:6-12) and Jesus’ words to the women who followed Him lamenting (23:27-31). All the gospels tell that Jesus was crucified with two others, but only Luke tells us of the changed and saved thief (23:39-43). Luke records two unique statements of Christ on the cross: the beloved “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (23:34), and “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (23:46). After Jesus’ resurrection, Luke records the penetrating question of an angel to the women, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (24:5), and Luke gives us the detailed account of Jesus’ appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (24:13-35). How wonderful it is to have all the gospel accounts, which together, paint for us the full and wondrous picture of our Lord!



“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Luke 17-24

To Seek and Save the Lost

Overview

Jesus’ final trip to Jerusalem was full of teaching, miracles, and confrontations. Even in the couple of chapters this week that conclude His trip, we see a great deal of activity. We find several important parables, teaching about the kingdom, healings, and a touching scene where Jesus’ eats in the home of a tax collector named Zacchaeus. It is this very setting that provides the statement of Jesus which is in many ways the theme of Luke and all the Gospels: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” And that’s exactly what Jesus was on His way to do. Shortly after His meal with Zacchaeus, Jesus would travel to Jerusalem. While He entered on a donkey to the sound of joyous praise, within a week He would be on trial with crowds demanding His crucifixion. This was no accident though; all happened “...as it has been determined” (22:22). While the crucifixion dashed the hopes of the disciples, Jesus’ resurrection happened just as promised. Luke includes some unique stories about the resurrection, and sets up the story for the continuation—the work of spreading the good news about Jesus to the world—a message Luke will continue in his sequel, the book of Acts!

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Luke 17-19

Tuesday: Luke 20-21

Wednesday: Luke 22

Thursday: Luke 23

Friday: Luke 24

Questions:

- What did Jesus teach we should say when we’ve done all that we’ve been commanded?

- What did the blind man in Jericho do after Jesus healed him? _____

- What type of tree did Zacchaeus climb? _____
- Compare the Parable of the Minas to the Parable of the Talents (Mt. 25:14-30).
What are the similarities? What are the differences? _____

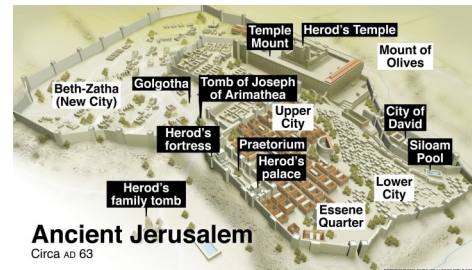
- What feast was drawing near when Jesus came to Jerusalem? _____
- What mountain did Jesus and the disciples go to after the Passover supper?

- What did Jesus say to Herod? _____
- Name one of the disciples that Jesus appeared to on the road to Emmaus:

- Jesus said, “All things must be fulfilled which were written in the _____,
and the _____, and the _____ concerning Me.” (NKJV)

SILENCING JESUS

Jesus and the religious elite clashed from nearly day one of His public ministry. Albeit for different reasons, most of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Chief Priests, scribes and lawyers despised Jesus. Again and again they had tried to stump Him, ensnare Him, and silence Him. During Jesus’ final week in Jerusalem, the confrontation came to its tragic climax. First, the religious leaders demanded that Jesus explain with what authority He did and taught the things He did (20:1-8). Jesus turned the tables and asked whether John’s baptism was from God or men. Their motives were laid bare—they weren’t truly concerned with heavenly authority, and thus they would not answer. Jesus didn’t simply refuse to answer—they could have and should have known exactly where His authority came from. A short time later, both the Pharisees and the Sadducees posed their most difficult questions in an attempt to finally undermine Him. The Pharisees laid the perfect trap with a question about taxes. Jesus couldn’t help (they thought) to either lose favor with the people or incur the wrath of Rome. Once again, however, Jesus answered with perfect truth. The Sadducees took their turn with their “ace-in-the-hole” argument against the resurrection. Jesus rebuked their unbelief and misunderstanding of God’s Word while teaching them a Scripture lesson. After this, Luke says “...they no longer dared to ask him any question” (20:41). Instead, they simply decided to kill Him.



It is tragic that some people are so opposed to Jesus and the truth that they can obstinately deny what is right before them. Saddest of all, people still do the same thing today. Obviously they can’t physically kill Jesus—but they still reject Him in every way possible. If we refuse to believe in and submit to the Lord, we are no better! Instead of silencing Jesus in our own life, let us learn to hear Him speak through the Word, and hearing Him, let us obey!

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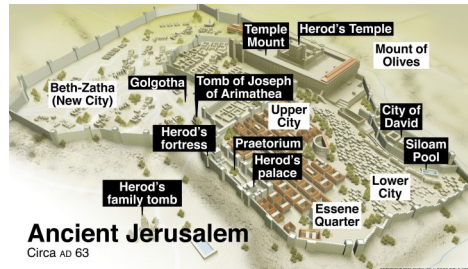
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